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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

Having considered the Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/47 A and 1995/47 B of 27 July 1995,

Concerned about the continuing threat posed by natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, on vulnerable communities and national economies, particularly in developing countries,

Reaffirming the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, on 27 May 1994, 1/

Emphasizing that early warnings of impending natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, linked to effective

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1/ See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, annex I.

disaster preparedness measures and their effective dissemination, using telecommunications, including broadcast services, are key factors to successful disaster prevention and preparedness,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on early-warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment; 2/

2. Commends the constructive inter-agency approach applied by the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, as part of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and all concerned agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, which has led to this initial overview and analysis of early-warning concepts, capacities and gaps and to proposals for improvements in coordination and capacity-building with regard to such disasters;

3. Takes note of the conclusions and proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report with respect to the improvement of early-warning capabilities, better international coordination in their use, and more effective and beneficial exchange of knowledge and technology;

4. Invites the Secretary-General, in particular, to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 3/ an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early-warning capacities by establishing, using the resources of the Trust Fund for the Decade, an international multisectoral informal mechanism on early warning, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the Framework and the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;

5. Encourages all Governments to undertake, with the full support of the United Nations system, regular reviews of early-warning requirements and capabilities at their national and community levels, within the framework of the development of national disaster reduction policies and as part of their efforts to protect their natural resources and achieve sustainable development;

6. Calls on the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, within the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade;

7. Encourages the utilization of the Trust Fund for the Decade in order to provide and channel adequate resources for the further improvement of such early-warning capacities at the local, national, subregional, regional, and international levels;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

2/ A/50/526.

3/ See General Assembly resolution 44/236, annex.